Dec. 28, 1948. D. L. DOGGETT ET AL 2,457,536

CONVERTIBLE REFRESHMENT BAR AND PARTITIONING SCREEN

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Fig. 1

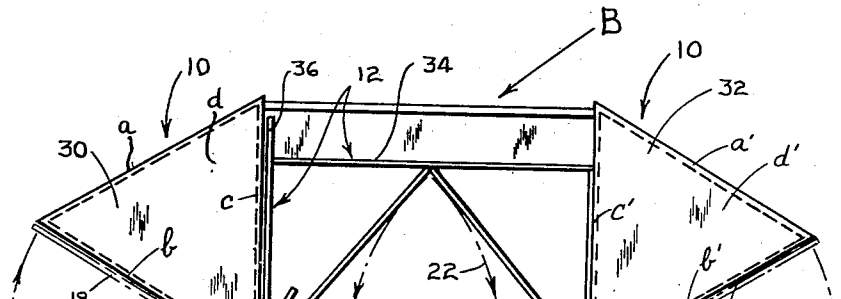
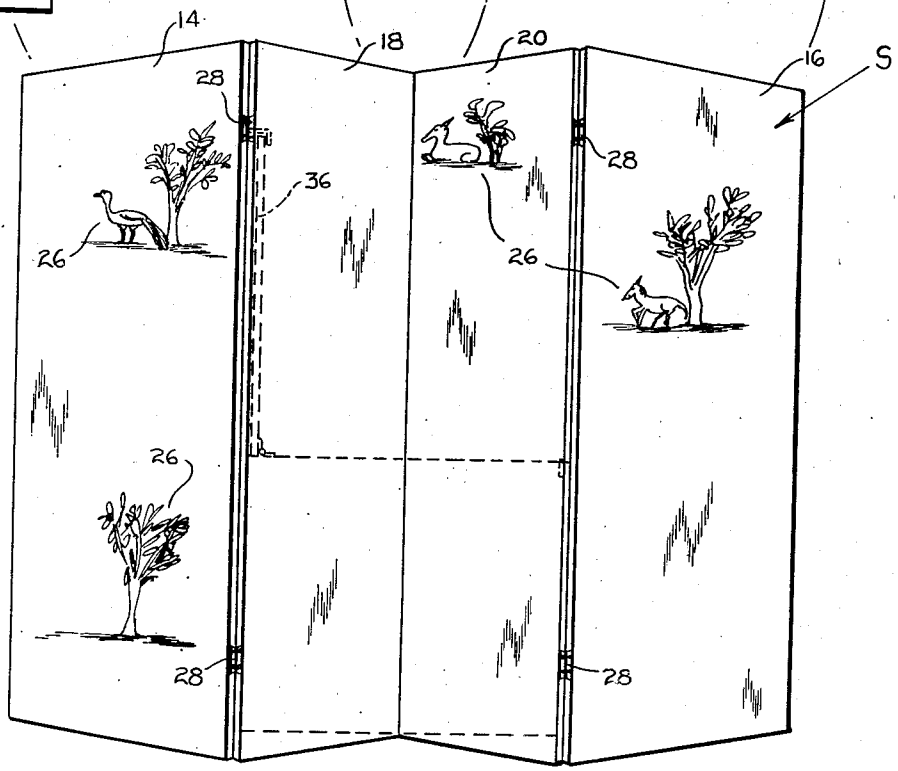


Fig. 2



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Fig. 3

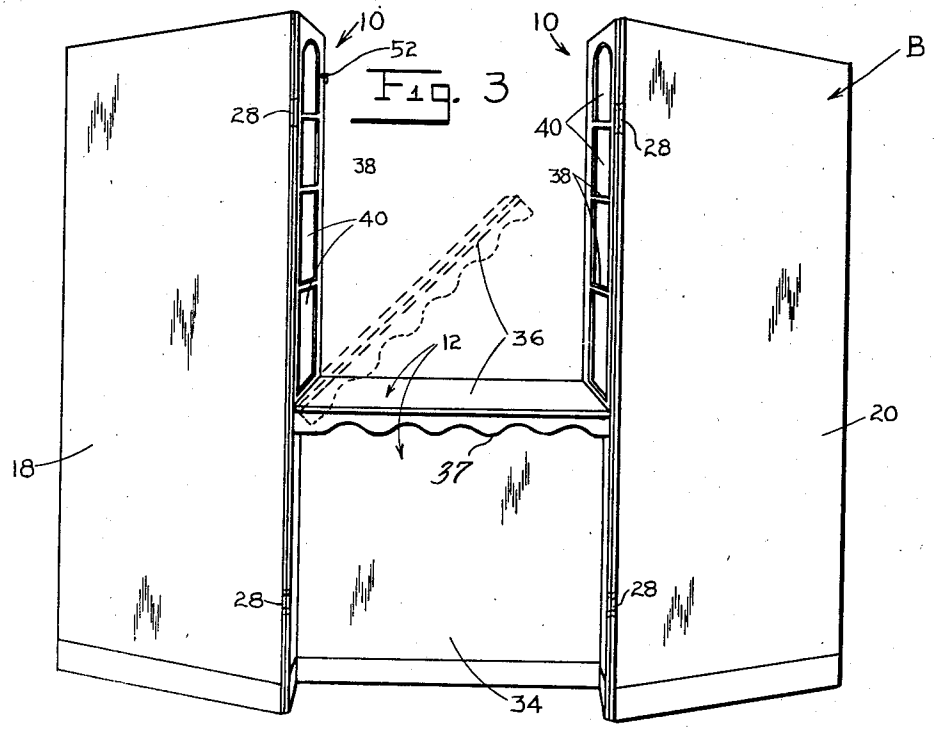
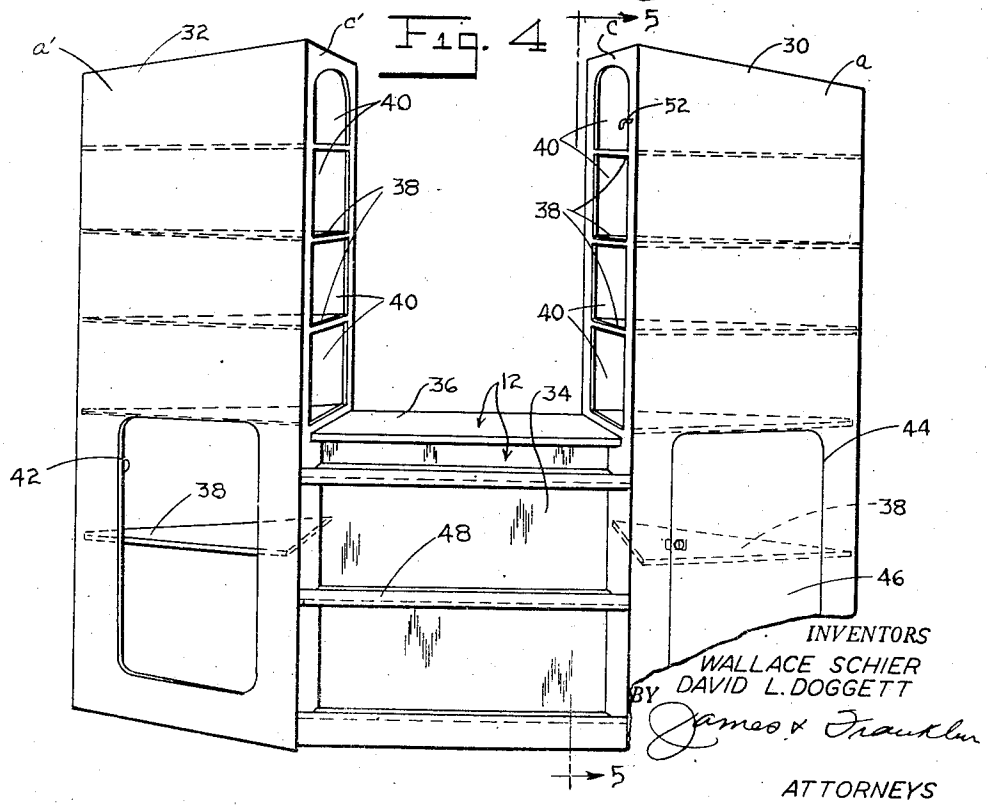


Fig. 4



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Fig. 5

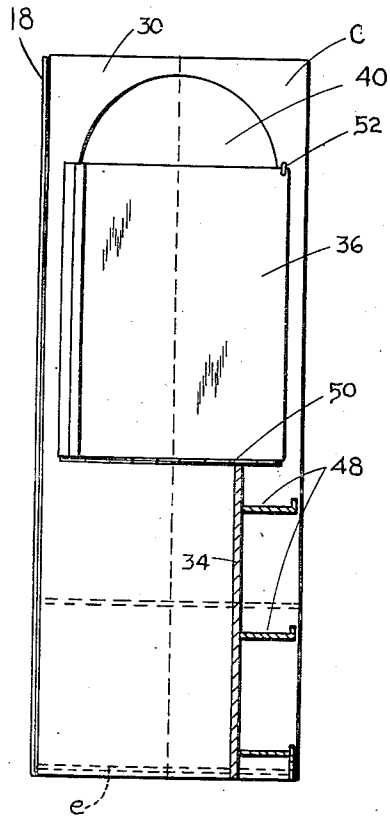


Fig. 6

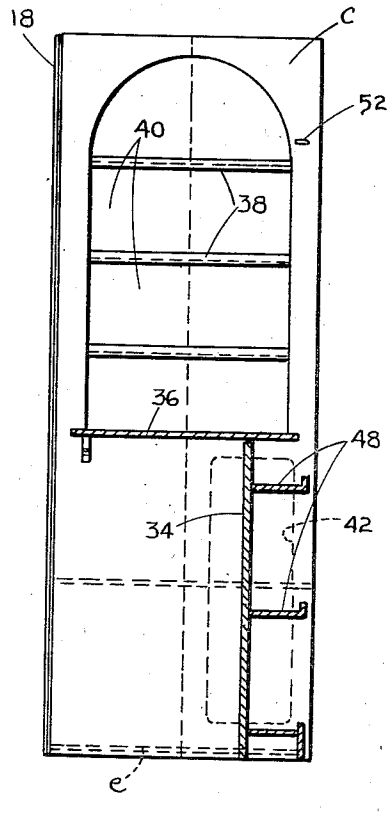
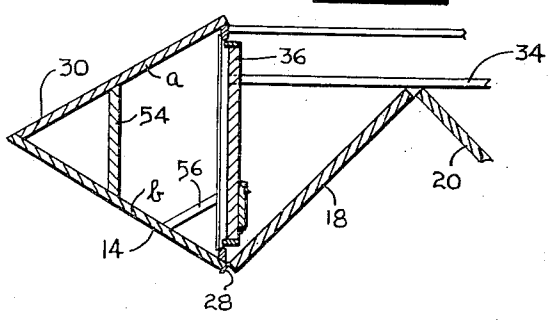


Fig. 7



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2,457,536

CONVERTIBLE REFRESHMENT BAR AND PARTITIONING SCREEN

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9 Claims. (Cl. 312—140.2)

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This invention relates to an article of furniture in the form of a convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen.

The prime object of our present invention centers about the provision of a novel article of furniture, especially designed for apartment house use or for other locations where economy of space is a factor, which is readily convertible for use as a refreshment bar or counter for guest entertainment and which is similarly readily convertible when not used as a refreshment bar into a decorative partitioning screen.

A further prime object of the invention relates to the provision of a convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen so designed and constructed that when used in either the capacity of a refreshment bar or partitioning screen, an ornamental and attractive article of furniture is produced which is harmonizable with the setting of a well decorated sitting room or den.

An ancillary important object of the invention relates to the making of a convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen of the nature referred to in which the refreshment bar is constructed to normally serve as a means for holding and storing liquor bottles, drinking glasses and other paraphernalia employed for refreshment bar use.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing objects and such other objects as may hereinafter appear, our invention is directed to the convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen as sought to be defined in the appended claims and as described in the following specification taken together with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen of the present invention, showing the bar in closed condition and the screen in setup position and indicating the manner in which the screen is moved to open position to open the bar for use;

Fig. 2 is a vertical front elevational view thereof with the parts shown in the condition depicted in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a front elevational view thereof, the parts being shown in condition with the refreshment bar open for use;

Fig. 4 is a rear elevational view thereof with the parts shown in the condition depicted in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a view thereof taken in cross-section in the plane of the line 5—5 of Fig. 4 showing the parts in one adjusted position;

Fig. 6 is a view corresponding to that shown in

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Fig. 5, with the parts shown in another adjusted position; and

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary view taken in transverse section and showing some of the parts in greater detail.

Referring now more in detail to the drawings and having reference first to Figs. 1 to 3 thereof, the novel article of furniture of the present invention comprises a structure which may be made to serve and appear as a decorative partitioning screen generally designated as S and best shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, and which may be readily converted to serve as a refreshment bar generally designated as B and best shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings. When employed as a partitioning screen, the structure in elevational front view assumes the appearance of the customary zig-zag type of partitioning screens normally used as an article of furniture in the home, as is depicted in Fig. 2 of the drawings. Elements of this partitioning screen, such, for example, as the two inside panels thereof, are readily manipulable in the manner illustrated by the arrowed lines in Fig. 1 of the drawings to convert the structure to the attractive refreshment serving bar and counter as shown in Fig. 3.

This convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen comprises structurally a stand generally designated as 10 provided with a refreshment serving station generally designated 12, said stand being constructed at its front side with two stationary outside panel members 14 and 16 and two movable inside panel members 18 and 20, the movable inside panel members being movable in the arcs indicated by the dotted arrowed lines 22 and 24 (see Fig. 1) from a closed position when they are in front of the serving station 12 and shown in full lines in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings to an open position when they are arranged to overlie the stationary or fixed panels 14 and 16 as shown in full lines in Fig. 3 of the drawings and as indicated in the dot-dash lines shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. The stationary and movable panel members 14, 16, 18 and 20 may be suitably decorated as indicated at 26 on their screen exposing faces so as to produce the full simulation of a highly decorative and ornamental partitioning screen. The panels 18 and 20 are hinged as at 28, 28 to the outside panel members 14 and 16 with the usual form of double-acting hinges (see particularly Fig. 7) employed in partitioning screens to permit the swinging of the panels over the wide arcs indicated.

The refreshment bar stand comprises, in the

preferred construction depicted in the drawings, two laterally spaced upright structures 30 and 32 which are bridged by a structure defining the serving station 12 arranged medially of the refreshment bar, the stationary panel 14 forming the front of the upright structure 30 of the stand and the stationary panel 16 forming the front of the upright structure 32 of the stand. The serving station 12 comprises the assembly of a back drop 34 and a movable shelf 36, the shelf 36 being movable from an upright inoperative position shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings to a horizontal dropped operative position shown particularly in Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings so as to define a full serving counter. It will be noted that the structure defining the serving station 12 partially closes the space between the laterally spaced upright structures 30 and 32, the noncovered part of that space providing access to the station 12.

The laterally spaced upright structures 30 and 32, for purposes of producing an attractive design and also for the purpose of disposing the stationary front panels 14 and 16 into the angular positions required to effect the zig-zag screen arrangement, may be constructed in the form of housings which are triangularly shaped in cross-section, the upright housing 30 being, therefore, constructed to provide three side walls *a*, *b* and *c* and the upright housing 32 being constructed to similarly provide the corresponding side walls *a'*, *b'* and *c'*. To complete this structure, the housing 30 may be provided with the top wall *d* and bottom wall *e* and the housing structure 32 may be provided with the top wall *d'* and a corresponding bottom wall. These housings are also preferably designed and constructed to provide holding and storage compartments for liquor bottles, drinking glasses and similar paraphernalia, and for this purpose the upright housings 30 and 32 are each provided with shelving 38, 38 as shown particularly in Figs. 3 to 6 of the drawings. The walls *c* and *c'* of the upright housing structures 30 and 32 are formed with the openings 40, 40 which opposingly face the serving station 12, whereby the storage compartments in the upper parts of the upright housings are readily accessible to the bartender standing behind the serving station 12, as will be best seen by viewing Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings. If desired, the rear wall *a'* of the upright 32 may be provided with an opening 42 and the rear wall *a* of the upright 30 may be provided with an opening 44 which may be closed by a door 46 for access to the storage compartments formed in the bottom of these upright structures.

The back drop 34 of the serving station 12 may also, if desired, be provided with rearwardly extended shelving 48, 48 (see particularly Figs. 4 to 6) for the holding or storing of refreshment paraphernalia. The counter shelf 36 for its movement between the vertical inoperative and the horizontal operative positions described is preferably hinged as at 50 to the wall *c* of the upright 30, and in its upper position may be latched by a locking element as, for example, a rotatable hook 52. The decorative trimming, such as the strip 37 shown in Fig. 3, there formed of wood, fabric, or any other suitable material, may be applied to the front edge of the counter shelf 36 if desired.

The walls, panels, shelving and similar parts of the convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen may be made of sheeted wood, metal or composition board or material. These may be suitably buttressed or reinforced by struts or equivalent members as is common in the art of furniture manufacture, Fig. 7 of the drawings indicating the manner in which such details may be provided. Thus, for example, the walls *a* and *b* of the upright structure 30 may be suitably reinforced by a strut such as 54 formed in the upper part of the structure, and the walls *b* and *c* may be similarly reinforced at the lower part of the structure by a strut such as 56.

The structure and operation of the convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen of our present invention and the many advantages in its use will now in the main be fully apparent by the above detailed description thereof. This article of furniture may normally serve the purpose of the decorative partitioning screen depicted in Fig. 2 of the drawings, used as part of the setting of a well furnished sitting room or den. On the occasion of the entertaining of guests, the inside panels 18 and 20 of the screen structure are moved in the arcs indicated by the arrowed lines 22 and 24 (Fig. 1) outwardly and into a position overlying the stationary panels 14 and 16 of the screen structure, thus exposing and opening the refreshment bar for use. The counter shelf 36 is thereupon moved to the dropped serving position shown in Figs. 3 and 4. With the storage compartments containing or being filled with bottles of liquor, sodas and the like and with drinking glasses, the refreshment bar is thus converted for instant refreshment use. A very serviceable as well as an attractive refreshment bar is presented as depicted in Fig. 3 of the drawings. When its use as a bar is completed, the drop shelf 36 is lifted to its inoperative position (Figs. 1 and 5) and the movable panel members 18 and 20 are swung back inwardly to their closed position in front of the serving station, thus concealing and closing the refreshment bar and converting this structure back to the decorative screen of Fig. 2 of the drawings. The structure may be rendered readily movable over the floor of the sitting room or den as by providing the same with rollers or casters.

The structure exemplified in the drawings and described above embodies one of the preferred forms of the described invention. It will be apparent that many changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of the parts of the convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen without departing from the spirit of the invention defined in the following claims.

We claim:

1. As an article of furniture, a convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen comprising, a stand defining a refreshment bar, said stand comprising two laterally spaced upright structures and a medially arranged structure partially closing the space between said upright structures and defining a refreshment serving station bridging said upright structures, said stand being constructed at its front side with stationary and movable panel members, the stationary panel members forming the fronts of said upright structures and a movable panel member being disposable in front of said serving station, said movable panel member being movable from in front of said station to an open position to expose and open the refreshment bar and being movable to closed position in front of said station to conceal and close the refreshment bar, the said front panel members when the movable panel member is moved to its closed position being arranged to define a partitioning screen.

2. As as article of furniture, a convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen comprising, a stand defining a refreshment bar, said stand comprising two laterally spaced upright structures and a medially arranged structure partially closing the space between said upright structures and defining a refreshment serving station bridging said upright structures, said stand being constructed at its front side with two stationary outside panel members and two movable inside panel members hinged to the outside panel members, the stationary panel members forming the fronts of said upright structures and the movable panel members being disposable in a position in front of said serving station, the movable inside panel members being swingable outwardly from said position to open position to expose and open the refreshment bar and being swingable inwardly to closed position in front of said station to conceal and close the refreshment bar, the said front panel members when the movable panel members are swung to their closed position being disposed in zig-zag relation and defining a partitioning screen.

3. The convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen of claim 1 in which each of the two laterally spaced upright structures comprises a housing provided with storage compartments.

4. The convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen of claim 1 in which each of the two laterally spaced upright structures comprises a housing triangularly shaped in cross-section provided with storage compartments, some of the storage compartments having openings facing the serving station.

5. The convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen of claim 2 in which each of the two laterally spaced upright structures comprises a housing triangularly shaped in cross-section provided with storage compartments, some of the storage campartments having openings facing the serving station.

6. The convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen of claim 2 in which the serving station includes a back drop and a counter shelf, the counter shelf being movable between vertical inoperative and horizontal operative positions, the movable panel members being movable to the closed position when the shelf is moved to its inoperative position.

7. The convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen of claim 2 in which each of the two laterally spaced upright structures comprises a housing triangularly shaped in cross-section provided with storage compartments, some of the storage compartments having openings facing the serving station and in which the serving station includes a back drop and a counter shelf, the counter shelf being movable between vertical inoperative and horizontal operative positions, the movable panel members being movable to the closed position when the shelf is moved to its inoperative position.

8. As an article of furniture, a convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen comprising a stand provided with a structure defining a refreshment serving station, said stand being constructed at its front side with stationary outside panel members and movable inside panel members, the movable inside panel members being movable to open position to expose said serving station and being movable to closed position to conceal said serving station, the said front panel members when the movable panel members are moved to their closed position being arranged to define a partitioning screen, said serving station including a backdrop and a counter shelf, the counter shelf being movable between vertical inoperative and horizontal operative positions, the movable panel members being movable to closed position when the shelf is moved to its inoperative position.

9. As an article of furniture, a convertible refreshment bar and partitioning screen comprising a stand provided with a structure defining a refreshment serving station, said stand being constructed at its front side with two stationary outside panel members and two movable inside panel members hinged to the outside panel members, the movable inside panel members being swingable to open position in overlying relation to the stationary outside panel members to expose said serving station and being swingable to closed inside position to conceal and close said serving station, the said front panel members when the movable panel members are swung to their closed position being disposed in zig-zag relation and defining a partitioning screen, the serving station including a backdrop and a counter shelf, the counter shelf being movable between vertical inoperative and horizontal operative positions, the movable panel members being movable to closed position when the shelf is moved to its inoperative position.

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